

REMARKS

This Amendment is submitted in response to the Office Action dated May 31, 2005, wherein claims 1 – 11 and 14 – 28 were objected to for wording informalities, claims 1, 4 – 10, 14 – 17, 20 – 25, 27 and 28 were rejected as obvious, and claims 2, 3, 11, 18, 19 and 26 were said to contain allowable subject matter, but were objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim. By this amendment, applicant has amended independent claims 1 and 17 to correct the wording informalities noted by the examiner, and to incorporate the allowable subject matter of claims 2 and 18, respectively, which have been cancelled. In addition, claim 3 has been amended to correct its dependency, claim 13 has been amended to eliminate redundant language, and claims 28 – 34, have been cancelled. Claims 1, 3 – 17 and 19 – 27 remain pending. All of the pending claims are now in condition for allowance.

The wording informalities of claims 1 and 17 have been corrected. Applicant thanks the examiner for his helpful suggestions. With the amendment of claim 17 to include a recitation of “pinch rollers,” the examiner’s objection to claim 19 is moot. Claim 28, which was objected to for failing to further limit the subject matter of a previous claim, has been cancelled.

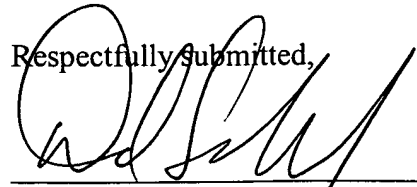
With the amendment of independent claims 1 and 17 to incorporate the allowable subject matter of claims 2 and 18 respectively, all of the claims which are dependent on either claim 1 or claim 17 are also allowable. Thus, dependent claims 12 and 13, which had been subject to a species restriction, are now allowable since they each depend on an allowed, generic base claim and no further searching of these claims is required. Claim 13 has been amended to eliminate language which is redundant in view of the amendment to claim 1. Withdrawn claims 29 – 34 have been cancelled. (It is noted that the application as filed included two claims numbered 31, such that it contained 35 claims. It is applicant’s intent to cancel both claims numbered 31.)

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is submitted that the application is now in condition for allowance, and such action is earnestly solicited. The examiner is invited to call the undersigned if doing so might promote the prosecution of this application.

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Respectfully submitted,



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